

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented)

A method for enhancing the natural rate of mutagenesis in bacteria by

- 1) growing bacteria in media utilizing thio-phosphate as a source of phosphate
- 2) performing multiple rounds of bacterial amplification either by diluting into liquid broth and/or by plating individual colonies onto solid agar plates so as to accumulate a high level of mutations with a reasonable yield of viable bacteria.

7. (previously presented)

A method to facilitate the mutagenesis of recombinant phage DNAs and/or libraries comprising:

- 1) growing bacterial host cells in media containing thio-phosphate as a source of phosphate
- 2) infecting recombinant phage at a suitable moi into the growing bacterial culture
- 3) continued culture and replication of the phage in the host cell culture followed by isolating the phage
- 4) repeating steps 1-3 using the treated phage and fresh host cells until the desired extent of mutagenesis is achieved.

15. (previously presented)

A method to facilitate the mutagenesis of recombinant plasmid DNA and/or libraries as follows:

- 1) growing bacteria transfected with a recombinant plasmid DNA in media containing thio-phosphate as a source of phosphate
- 2) isolating the plasmid DNA from the bacterial culture after the culture becomes saturated

- 3) transforming fresh bacteria with the isolated plasmid DNA
- 4) repeating steps 1-3 until the desired extent of mutagenesis is achieved.